

May 24, 1960

NSF-- Antarctic Research Program

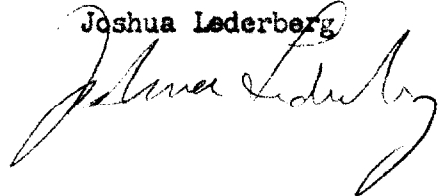
Re: Hudson- Ewing Proposal.

While this application represents a substantial improvement over last year, I am still unable to give it enthusiastic commendation. The scientific problem is an extremely interesting one, and if there were some likelihood of its deterioration, or other reason for great pressure of time, I might recommend overlooking the defects of this approach; however, I see no reason why this project should be given special priority apart from its inherent scientific importance and validity.

The main point is that there is no reason in Ewing's or Hudson's background or qualifications to entrust them with the rather large sums involved in this project.-- except perhaps that they have had the imagination to propose it. If they had succeeded in enlisting the help of other accomplished workers in general or in marine microbiology, it would be a splendid project. They do have some new people now, e.g., Don Kushner, who should be definite assets, but this is still not the team, in my opinion that can do the job. However, I feel that there might be some real value in getting together an ad hoc committee, including some of the people I mentioned last year for a site visit to go over the story in more detail with Ewing and Hudson. I feel ~~xxx~~ that Ewing can make an important contribution, but he has affiliated with Hudson mainly on a basis of personal friendship (and being next door neighbors) rather than professional ~~xxx~~ qualification. This may help account for the rather bizarre program of cancer biology at Lamont!

The application may seem to take pains to conceal who would be the Senior Microbiologist; if this is Hudson, he obviously would not be able to ~~suppx~~ spend his full time on the project, and Lewis' qualifications are not impressive at all.

Joshua Lederberg

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joshua Lederberg', written in a cursive style.